Tasar and Mulberrry silk cultivation in Orissa

4227. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total area in Orissa which has been brought under Tasar and Mulberry silk cultivation;

(b) whether Mayurbhanj and Koraput districts in Orissa are idealy located for Tasar silk and Mulberry cultivation;

(c) if so, the steps taken to promote Tasar and Mulberry cultivation in these districts of Orissa; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) An extent of 1966 hectares are under mulberry cultivation in Orissa. Tasar sericulture is practised mostly on nature grown forest plantation. An assessment done by the State Department in tasar growing areas has indicated availability of 15989 hectares of nature grown tasar food plantation in forest areas. Apart from this 6830 hectares block plantation has been raised under Inter State Tasar Project and other programmes.

(b) Tasar and Mulberry sericulture are being practiced in Mayurbhanj and Koraput districts. The productivity in the case of mulberry sericulture is low on account of limited irrigation facilities.

(c) and (d) For development of tasar sericulture in Mayurbhanj & Koraput district, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has created following infrastructure:—

1. Regional Tasar Research Station at Baripada.

2. Tasar Research Extention Centre at Bangriposi.

3. Tasar Basic Seed Multiplication and Training Centre (sub-unit) at Baripada.

4. Tasar Basic Seed Multiplication and Training Centre At Nowrangpur.

Besides, under the Inter State Tasar Project, 611 hectares under block plantation & 124 hectares under adapahi plantation has been developed in Mayurbhanj district and 117 hectares of tasar block plantation in Koraput district.

For development of mulberry sericulture in Mayurbhanj and Koraput districts the following projects/ programmes have been/are being implemented by CSB:—

(i) Under the National Sericulture Project which was implemented in Koraput district in Orissa infrastructure facilities were created such as basic seed farm, technical service centre, Cocoon market, demonstration cum training centre for reelers and weavers, etc.

(ii) Besides, to boost the production of silk 34 Catalytic Development Schemes have been sanctioned for implementation by the Government through Central Silk Board. Out of 34 schemes, 10 schemes have been approved during 1998-99 for being implemented in the State of Orissa. Out of these 10 schemes the following three schemes covers Mayurbhanj & Koraput districts:—

(i) Creation of improved mulberry variety banks.

(ii) On farm training and start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists.

(iii) Master reeler assistance.

Export of handicrafts and brassware from Moradabad (U.P.)

4728. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exporters of handicrafts and brassware located in Moradabad (U.P.) and the details of their exports in terms of foreign exchange during the last two years;

(b) whether Government are aware that frequent power cuts and load shedding in Moradabad and poor transportation are causing great problem to the exporters; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) There are about 1100 exporters of handicrafts and brassware located in and around Moradabad (U.P.). The details of exports from Moradabad are not available, as export statistics for a city are not maintained. However, the exports of handicrafts from the country including from Moradabad has been to the tune of 1585.53 US million $ and 1660.93 US million $ (Provisional) during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. For improvement of the power system, the Empowered Committee of the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme operated by the Government has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 8.00 crores and an amount of Rs. 6.50 crores has already been released to the State Government. Steps have been initiated by National Highway Authority of India for improvement of the Delhi-Moradabad highway.

Implementation of Jute marketing scheme

4729. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "JCI ignored while implementing Jute marketing schemes Use of UNDEP FUNDS QUESTIONED" appeared in the Statesman dated the 7th October, 1997; if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether a corpus of Rupees 250 crore was created for modernisation and diversification of organised jute sector under "Rajiv Gandhi Jute Mills Modernisation Fund";

(c) if so, the jute industries which have been modernised/diversified by the fund giving details of each unit; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor and the present status of the fund?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Ministry of Textiles, Government of India have launched a National Jute Programme for diversification and marketing of Jute products in assistance with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with effect from June 1992. Under this programme, 26 projects have been undertaken with an assistance of US $ 19.53 million and a matching contribution of Rs. 36.63 crores from Government of India upto March '98. The programme has facilitated diversification in jute sector, strengthen R&D capacity and infrastructural support for transfer of technology, market promotion and enhancement of exports.

Under the Programme, JCI acted as the nodal agency for implementation of a project on "Jute quality improvement (Retting Technology)", for which an amount of Rs. 84.10 lakhs was disbursed by UNDP and Rs. 35.00 lakhs by Government of India for construction of Retting Tanks in Jute Growing States.

(b) and (c) Two seperate funds under the name of Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme (JMFS) and Special Jute Development Fund (SJDF) were created in November 1986, with a corpus of Rs. 150 crores and Rs. 100 crores respectively for modernisation and diversification of jute sector. They were not called "Rajiv Gandhi Jute Modernisation Fund."

Statement indicating Unit-wise disbursement of funds under the two schemes is at enclosed statement. *(See* below)

(d) Regarding JMFS, it was discontinued w.e.f. 1994.

Regarding SJDF, while Rs. 36.63 crores was spent as Govt. of India's matching contribution to the National Jute Programme till March, 98, in addition to the amounts disbursed to the Industry and other institutions, remaining funds are being utilized for commercialising the R&D programmes through Textile Research Associations.